

1 THE CLAY TOWNSHIP PHRAGMITES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM 2010

2 CLAY TOWNSHIP, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MICHIGAN, USA

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4 Section 1. DEFINITIONS.

5 “Advisory Board” means the Clay Township Phragmites Management Advisory
6 Board as established by the Clay Township Board.

7 “Person” means an individual, firm, corporation, association, partnership, limited
8 liability company, or other legal entity.

9 “Phragmites” or “Phragmites plant” means the invasive plant species with the
10 scientific name “Phragmites australis”. Where used in this document the term
11 “Phragmites” or “Phragmites plant” does not include the native variety of
12 Phragmites.

13 “Plan”, “Management Plan” or “Phragmites Management Plan” means the Clay
14 Township Phragmites Management Plan.

15 “Phragmites Treatment” means the control of Phragmites by best management
16 practices including, but not limited to herbicide, cutting, burning or other methods,
17 as prescribed by the Advisory Board and in accordance with all Local, State and
18 Federal laws.

19 “Phragmites Infestation” means a concentrated dense stand of phragmites
20 plants, determined by the Advisory Board to contain any of the following
21 characteristics:

- 22 • It impacts wetland ecology by out-competing the native plants by creating
23 a monoculture of reeds or reducing plant or animal diversity,
- 24 • It blocks or inhibits the flow of surface water in canals, drains or other
25 open conveyances or adversely impacts the groundwater hydrology,
- 26 • It reduces land values or tourism by limiting access to or views of the
27 lakes, rivers and canals, or can encourage blight conditions as defined in
28 Clay Township Ordinances,
- 29 • It presents a safety hazard by blocking or inhibiting visibility or access
30 along roads or trails, at intersections or driveways or along navigable
31 reaches of shoreline or waterways,
- 32 • Or it presents a fire hazard due to its proximity to dwellings, appurtenant
33 structures or adjacent property as defined in Clay Township ordinances.

34 “Program” or “Annual Program” means this Clay Township Annual Phragmites
35 Management Program.

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37 **SECTION 2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE.**

38 This Phragmites Management Program was developed by the Clay Township
39 Phragmites Management Advisory Board and the Clay Township Board to
40 provide a program for the Township to assist the citizens with procedures to
41 receive effective Phragmites treatment. By including all property owners within
42 Clay Township that have a Phragmites infestation, this Phragmites Management
43 Program will help maximize effectiveness of the Phragmites treatments, thereby
44 helping to better understand and manage Phragmites.

45 **SECTION 3. COMPONENTS OF THE PHRAGMITES**
46 **MANAGEMENT PROGRAM 2010**

47 **A. SURVEY**

48 During 2010 The Advisory Board shall survey Phragmites infestations on
49 properties to be included in any other components of the Phragmites
50 Management Program 2010. During 2010 The Advisory Board should develop a
51 method of recording and managing the data collected.

52 **B. PRIORITY TREATMENT AREAS**

53 During 2010 The Advisory Board should determine priority treatment areas for
54 2010 treatment based on the extent to which infestations impact the community,
55 the availability of resources and the interest and cooperation of owners of
56 infested properties. Guidelines for determining the impact to the community will
57 be those listed above in the definition of "Phragmites Infestation."

58 **C. COMMUNICATIONS**

59 On May 5, 2010 The Advisory Board held a meeting to inform the community of
60 the Phragmites Advisory Board, the development of the Phragmites Management
61 Plan and the Phragmites Management Program 2010. At this meeting the
62 Advisory Board gathered input from the community on each of these subjects.

63 The Advisory Board should publicize the availability and activities of the
64 Phragmites Management Program through the use of signs, flyers, public access
65 TV, the Internet, the Press and other available forms of media. During 2010
66 arrangements should be made for signs to be posted at St. John's Marsh to bring
67 the Program to the public's attention. During 2010 signs should be obtained
68 which can be placed at properties being treated under the Program.

69 The Advisory Board should maintain communications with Phragmites
70 management permitting agencies in order to assist property owners in
71 understanding and completing the permit process.

72 The Advisory Board should maintain communications with the Phragmites
73 management research community and other phragmites management
74 organizations in order to bring information about the latest techniques in
75 Phragmites management back to the community. These communications should
76 be in the form of personal communications, subscribing to publications and/or
77 member attendance at workshops and seminars.

78 D. EDUCATION

79 The Advisory Board should be responsible for educating the public regarding the
80 affects of Phragmites infestations and for training the public on the latest
81 methods of Phragmites management for purposes of health and safety.

82 During 2010 the Advisory Board should initiate the use signs, flyers, public
83 access TV, the Internet, the Press and other available forms of media for
84 educational and training purposes and to publicize educational and training
85 opportunities and to maximize public awareness and involvement.

86 The Advisory Board should establish a list of volunteers who are willing to help
87 others in the community with education assistance in the management of their
88 Phragmites.

89 Three Phragmites Management Workshops are already scheduled for 2010 –
90 June 19 at 9 AM at the Clay Township Hall, and July 31 and August 21 at 2 PM
91 at Stewart Farm, Harsens Island.

92 E. PERMITTING ASSISTANCE

93 The Advisory Board should assist property owners in obtaining required permits
94 for Phragmites management including herbicide treatments and cutting or
95 burning.

96 During 2010 the Township should obtain a Michigan DNRE permit for a specific
97 pilot project area where property owners wish the Township's assistance.

98 Property owners wishing to self-treat their parcels under the authority of the
99 Township-wide permits shall be required to attend Phragmites management
100 training as established by the Advisory Board. During 2010 the Advisory Board
101 should develop standards of training for property owners who wish to participate
102 in the Program.

103 The Advisory Board should establish a list of volunteers who are willing to help
104 others in the community with permitting assistance in the management of their
105 Phragmites.

106 F. TREATMENT ASSISTANCE

107 The Advisory Board should assist and/or advise property owners on obtaining
108 services from reliable certified contractors for Phragmites management. As part

109 of this Phragmites Management Program 2010 the Township should arrange for
110 a contractor to treat multiple properties under a group contract, thereby resulting
111 in cost savings to the property owners who choose to participate. The
112 Township's existing ordinance on the establishment of Assessment Districts
113 could be used as needed to assist property owners in this process.

114 Property owners wishing assistance in treatment shall be required to attend
115 Phragmites management training as established by the Advisory Board. During
116 2010 the Advisory Board should develop standards of training for property
117 owners who wish to participate in the Program.

118 The Advisory Board should assist and/or advise property owners on obtaining
119 supplies and equipment for Phragmites management. Information should be
120 available at the Township Hall on sources for equipment and State approved
121 chemicals.

122 The Township should purchase equipment that could be loaned or rented to
123 property owners to be used in the management of Phragmites within the
124 community. During 2010 the Township should purchase an ATV mount Tree
125 Sprayer and a long-handled gas-powered hedge trimmer.

126 The Township should purchase Phragmites treatment chemicals in bulk
127 quantities for resale to property owners at a location within the community. A
128 recommendation for the quantity to be purchased during 2010 should be
129 prepared by the Advisory Board based on anticipated demand and costs.

130 The Advisory Board should establish a list of volunteers who are willing to help
131 others in the community with treatment assistance in the management of their
132 Phragmites.

133 G. FUNDING

134 The Advisory Board should begin to investigate funding opportunities for
135 ecosystem preservation and restoration and public education on those subjects.

136 Funding sources may include, but not be limited to, the Clay Township annual
137 budget, grants, donations, fees and income generated from the sale or rental of
138 equipment or supplies for Phragmites management. The Township may
139 establish fees for persons who elect to be included in components of this
140 Phragmites Management Program 2010.

141 After the Advisory Board has approved which parcel or parcels shall be included
142 in the Phragmites Management Program 2010, the Coordinator or other
143 Township authorized administrator acting on behalf of the Township, shall apply
144 to the appropriate authorities for a permit or permits authorizing Phragmites
145 treatment on the parcels included in the Program. Any fees associated with this
146 process for such permit or permits shall be paid for as determined by the
147 Township Board.

148 The Township may establish Special Assessment Districts for the management
149 of Phragmites. During 2010 Special Assessment Districts should be based on
150 property owner interest and Advisory Board recommendations.

151 H. PHRAGMITES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM 2011

152 At the end of 2010 The Advisory Board should develop an Phragmites
153 Management Program for 2011, to include a list of items from the Phragmites
154 Management Plan recommended for action by the Township during 2011. The
155 items to be included should be based on the success of the 2010 Program and
156 the availability of funds, staff and volunteers to administer the Program for 2011.
157 The Program recommendation should be submitted to The Township Board no
158 later than January 2011.

159 I. PHRAGMITES MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

160 It is assumed that there is no funding available in 2010 for Clay Township Board
161 to establish a paid administrative position of Clay Township Phragmites
162 Management Coordinator whose charge it is to oversee the implementation of
163 the Phragmites Management Plan and the Phragmites Management Program
164 2010. In that case, if there is a volunteer or volunteers willing to serve as
165 Phragmites Management Coordinator for 2010 the Advisory Board should
166 recommend to the Township Board a nominee to that position to serve as a
167 volunteer in that position. The duties and responsibilities of the Coordinator shall
168 be as established by the Township Board. In the absence of a Phragmites
169 Management Coordinator the Advisory Board may, at it's choosing, and with the
170 approval of the Township Board, act as Management Coordinator to oversee the
171 implementation of the Phragmites Management Plan and Annual Phragmites
172 Management Program 2010.

173 I. VOLUNTEERS

174 Persons who serve in any of the volunteer roles described in this Program shall
175 be required to attend Phragmites management training as established by the
176 Advisory Board. During 2010 the Advisory Board should develop standards of
177 training for volunteers.

178 SECTION 4. COOPERTIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY 179 OF ALGONAC & OTHER COMMUNITY PARTNERS

180 If a cooperative agreement is reached between Clay Township and the City of
181 Algonac or other community partners regarding a joint Phragmites Management
182 Plan, references within this document to Clay Township shall be modified to
183 include The City of Algonac and other community partners as stated in the
184 cooperative agreement.